



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the USC Community

FROM: Margo Apostolos
Chair, Honorary Degrees Committee

DATE: September 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Honorary Degree Nominations

Office of the Provost
Honorary Degrees
Committee

The Honorary Degrees Committee seeks your help in identifying distinguished individuals to be considered for an honorary degree from the University of Southern California at future spring commencements.

The honorary degree is the highest award that USC confers, and recognizes the totality of the recipient's accomplishments and/or service. It is given:

- To honor individuals who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary achievements in scholarship, the professions, or other creative activities, whether or not they are widely known by the general public;
- To honor alumni and other individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare and development of USC or the communities of which they are a part;
- To recognize exceptional acts of philanthropy to the university;
- To elevate the university in the eyes of the world by honoring individuals who are widely known and highly regarded for achievements in their respective fields of endeavor.

USC faculty, staff, students, alumni, or trustees may nominate a potential candidate. An individual's nomination need not come from someone in his or her academic area, and the committee also welcomes nominations of persons with distinguished accomplishments outside of conventional academic fields. The committee is particularly interested in candidates from diverse backgrounds, and whose own accomplishments might serve to highlight areas in which the university has developed exceptional strength.

Confidentiality is crucial to the nomination process. Nominees must not know that they are under consideration. Further, the nominator should not solicit letters of support from individuals outside of the university.

After review by the Honorary Degrees Committee, a slate of nominees of outstanding distinction and accomplishment is recommended to the president of the university and the Board of Trustees for their consideration. Approved nominations are active for three years from the date of approval. Please note that the Honorary Degrees Committee does not choose the commencement speaker, though the speaker is often awarded an honorary degree.

For more information about honorary degrees and to obtain a nomination form and detailed instructions, please visit the USC Honorary Degrees website at <www.usc.edu/admin/provost/honorarydegrees>. Nominations are submitted to the Chair of the Honorary Degrees Committee, care of the Office of the Provost.

The following individuals have received honorary degrees in the past three years:

May 2008

- **Sweet Alice Harris**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Founder and executive director of Parents of Watts, Sweet Alice Harris has dedicated her life to mentoring youth and providing assistance to people who are disadvantaged or underserved.
- **Robert Iger**, Doctor of Humane Letters. A distinguished executive in the entertainment industry, Robert Iger is president and chief executive officer of the Walt Disney Company as well as a steadfast supporter of the arts. He delivered the commencement address.
- **Norman Lear**, Doctor of Humane Letters. A recipient of the National Medal of Arts and creator of several groundbreaking television shows, Norman Lear is a distinguished producer as well as a successful businessman and philanthropist.
- **Harlyne J. Norris**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Philanthropist and USC trustee Harlyne J. Norris has distinguished herself through her generosity and guidance to USC and numerous organizations that support children, health care, medical research, education, and the arts.

May 2007

- **Ted Koppel**, Doctor of Laws. A member of the Broadcasting Hall of Fame and the recipient of countless awards, Ted Koppel is one of journalism's most honored figures. He delivered the commencement address.
- **Arvid Carlsson**, Doctor of Science. Nobel Prize holder Arvid Carlsson discovered the role of dopamine in the brain and explored pharmacological treatments for neurological and psychiatric disorders.

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- **Clint Eastwood**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Iconic actor and a two-time Academy Award winning director, Eastwood is also a composer and film producer. Eastwood is as popular with audiences as he is with critics.
- **Joyce Kennard**, Doctor of Laws. A three-time USC alumna, Joyce Kennard has served for nearly two decades on the California Supreme Court, where she is recognized and admired as a diligent and independent-minded jurist.

May 2006

- **Vartan Gregorian**, Doctor of Humane Letters. President, Carnegie Corporation of New York. Renowned scholar and leader of public and private institutions, including Brown University; professor; historian; and author.
- **Herbert G. Klein**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Retired vice president and editor-in-chief, Copley Newspapers. Long-serving USC trustee and alumnus, former White House communications director, and journalist.
- **Dr. Dushanka V. Kleinman**, Doctor of Science. Deputy director, National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. Rear admiral and America's first female chief dental officer in the U.S. Public Health Service.
- **Antonio Villaraigosa**, Doctor of Humane Letters. Mayor of Los Angeles, former city councilmember and speaker of the California State Assembly, and distinguished visiting fellow at USC's Southern California Studies Center. Mr. Villaraigosa delivered the commencement address.